

AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) A method ~~for dynamically handling real-time attributes in a static directory server~~ comprising:

providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to [[in]] a directory structure;~~the value of said real-time attribute being retrievable external of said directory structure and being in a format not backwards compatible with a directory access protocol request return format;~~

receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;

~~parsing requests for access to directory attribute values to detect~~ detecting in said received request a request to access an attributed ~~requests for attributes declared as a real-time external in said attribute declarations;~~

responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, invoking at least one Real-time Attribute Processor (RTAP) selected from a plurality of attribute processors according to a predetermined selection schema, said invoked RTAP being configured to resolve resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure; and by converting said obtained attribute value to be backwards compatible with a directory access protocol request return format;

responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first value format to a second value format, wherein said first value format is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said second value format is compatible with said directory access protocol;

returning to a requester said real-time value in said second format ~~resolved, converted and backwards compatible attribute value according to said directory access protocol~~ while suppressing or avoiding storing of said [[the]] converted attribute value in said directory structure.

Claims 9 - 11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said ~~step of parsing a request~~ detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

13. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said ~~step of returning to a requester an attribute value~~ comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

Claims 14 - 19 (cancelled).

20. (new) A computer readable memory comprising:

a computer readable memory suitable for encoding computer programs; and
one or more computer programs encoded by said computer readable memory and configured to:

provide at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;
receive a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;
detect in said received request a request to access an attributed declared as a real-time external attribute;
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolve a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first value format to a second value format, wherein said first value format is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said second value format is compatible with said directory access protocol;
returning to a requester said real-time value in said second format attribute value according to said directory access protocol while suppressing or avoiding storing of said converted attribute value in said directory structure.

21. (new) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

22. (new) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

23. (new) A system comprising a hardware means for performing a logical process, wherein said logical process comprises:

- providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;
- receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;
- detecting in said received request a request to access an attributed declared as a real-time external ~~in said~~ attribute;
- responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;
- responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first value format to a second value format, wherein said first value format is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said second value format is compatible with said directory access protocol;
- returning to a requester said real-time value in said second format attribute value according to said directory access protocol while suppressing or avoiding storing of said converted attribute value in said directory structure.

24. (new) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part a microprocessor.

25. (new) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part an electronic circuit.

26. (new) The system as set forth in Claim 25 wherein said electronic circuit is selected from a group comprising an application specific integrated circuit, and a programmable logic circuit

27. (new) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

28. (new) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.